



Commercial and Recreational Vehicles – Changes to On Street Parking Restrictions

Protecting Our
Quality of Life
and the Safety of
Our Residents



2350 Research Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20850
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police

PARKING OF HEAVY COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES ON RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS

The Montgomery County Executive's Code Enforcement Work Group was formed in September 2007 to address a number of housing and zoning code issues that, in combination or alone, are causing adverse impacts and public safety issues in residential neighborhoods, and particularly in the small-lot zones. One of the issues studied by the work group was the unsafe passage on residential streets resulting from large, parked commercial and recreational vehicles.

Changes in law effective July 1, 2009:

The new legislation prohibits the parking of recreational vehicles on any public road. The law does provide an exemption for residents to load and unload their vehicles but this is limited for a period not to exceed 18 hours.

The parking of large commercial vehicles has been a growing problem in Montgomery County for the past decade. During public meetings, residents voiced concern that large vehicles were limiting the line of sight on neighborhood roads, making it difficult to make turns on narrow streets. Additionally, large vehicles endanger pedestrians because oncoming traffic cannot see them. An additional change in the law is that no vehicle, regardless of size, will be permitted to park between a sidewalk or roadway curb and the property edge of a public street or highway, except in an emergency.

Enforcement:

The goal of the County is to garner voluntary compliance. Enforcement is the tool of last resort. Failure to voluntarily comply may result in a \$75 parking ticket, as well as costly impoundment fees and daily storage costs.

Purpose:

The new legislation is intended to clarify existing law, improve Montgomery County residents' quality of life and make roads safer for all drivers and pedestrians.



HEAVY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

The definition of a heavy commercial vehicle is any motor vehicle or trailer designed and used for carrying freight or merchandise, or used in furtherance of any commercial enterprise. These vehicles are distinguished by the following characteristics:

- A gross vehicle weight (GVW) of more than 10,000 pounds;
- A manufacturer's rated capacity of more than one ton;
- A length of more than 21 feet measured from end-to-end of the vehicle, including any object that is loaded onto the vehicle; or
- A height of more than eight feet, with properly inflated tires, measured from the ground to the highest part of the vehicle – including racks, but not antennas.

The definition of heavy commercial vehicles does not include a farm machine or vehicle used for agriculture or a motor vehicle owned by the County or other government agency.



RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

The definition for a recreational vehicle is a duly licensed and registered vehicle, with or without motor power, which is solely intended for the leisure use of the operator and guests. The following are considered recreational vehicles:

- Motor home, travel trailer, camper or camping trailer; or
- Non-freight trailer, as defined by the State Motor Vehicle Administration, used to transport other leisure equipment such as a boat, horse, motorcycle, show car, race car, snowmobile or bicycle.



PARKING RESTRICTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Heavy or commercial vehicles may only park on a public road where both sides of the road abut properties zoned exclusively for commercial or industrial uses. Exceptions are made when the vehicle or bus is being used at the time to load or unload passengers, merchandise or materials; the vehicle is being used by its owner or operator to perform work on the premises; a bus stops for a period of time, not to exceed 30 minutes at an authorized bus terminal.

Any questions or concerns relative to this change in the law should be directed to Montgomery County Police, Community Services Officers. The following Police District stations can also advise as to alternative locations in your area:

1st District, Rockville.....240-773-6077
2nd District, Bethesda.....301-657-0119
3rd District, Silver Spring.....301-565-5762
4th District, Wheaton.....240-773-5524
5th District, Germantown.....240-773-6212
6th District, Montgomery Village..240-773-5700



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